

During 2005, she was assigned to her current position as Community Programs Specialist.

Throughout her career, Karen assisted Illinois in processing loans and grants to rural communities and nonprofit organizations to improve and construct infrastructure projects. The projects she assisted on ranged from water and wastewater systems, public safety, and health and community services. She received numerous awards for outreach, marketing, and processing, and served on various national task forces which ultimately benefited residents in rural Illinois.

I am proud to honor Karen for her work on behalf of the people of Illinois, and I wish her the best in her retirement.

HONORING BLAIR FREDERICK
KARGES

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Blair Frederick Karges of Douglas County, Missouri for his lifelong care and service to this country.

Mr. Karges graduated from Pine City, Minnesota High School in May of 1939. At the age of 20 he was drafted into the United States Army. He served with the 544th Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment, 4th Engineer Special Brigade as a Company Armor & Squad Leader in the Cargo Control section moving cargo, troops, and anything else the army might need. He served on islands in the Netherland East Indies, Luzon, Philippines, and the occupation of Japan following their surrender. He received numerous awards, including the Philippine Liberation Ribbon Bronze Star, before being discharged on January 9, 1946. He later went on to serve in the Colorado Air National Guard as a Staff Sergeant from October of 1953 until October of 1956.

Mr. Karges then worked as an insurance agent for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. until he retired in April of 1981. He married his loving wife, Pamela, on November 21, 1984 and they have lived happily together since.

Mr. and Mrs. Karges moved to Douglas County thirty years ago in May of 1986. Here he has remained very active in the community. Mr. Karges distributes meals for the Senior Center every week, works at Heart of the Hills distribution center one day a week, and is a member of the Douglas County Veterans Memorial Association. For his outstanding career and community achievements, it is my pleasure to recognize Blair Frederick Karges before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JACQUELINE A.
YOUNG

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Jacqueline A. Young on her retirement from the

Essex Regional Educational Services Commission in June 2016.

Dr. Young has been an educator for 42 years. She received her B.A. from Douglas College and her M.Ed. and Ed.D. from Rutgers University Graduate School of Education. Dr. Young began her career as an Elementary School Teacher in the Newark Public Schools. She then worked as an Elementary School Teacher and a Reading Resource Teacher for the East Orange School District. In 1980, she joined the New Jersey Department of Education as a Basic Skills Consultant and soon became a School Program Coordinator. In that capacity, she served as a facilitator between the Essex County Office of Education and the special needs urban districts for school improvement activities.

Since 1982, Dr. Young has been at the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC) where she has held several positions including Supervisor of Instruction and Director of Services to Nonpublic Schools. In 1992, she assumed the position of Superintendent. Under her leadership and direction, the ERESO has grown into the largest educational services commission in the State of New Jersey. The ERESO provides services to local school districts, agencies and nonpublic schools throughout northern New Jersey.

Over half of Dr. Young's career has been spent championing the needs of special education and at risk students. During her tenure at the ERESO, she has assisted school districts by developing programs and establishing schools to meet the needs of those students who have difficulty functioning in traditional school settings. These schools incorporate strategies and techniques conducive to the educational and emotional needs of the students in an environment with a low student/teacher ratio. In September 1997, Dr. Young assumed the responsibility of establishing a school for pre-adjudicated adolescents in the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center in Newark which is now called Sojourn High School. Sojourn High School addresses the specific needs of the students using a combination of thematic instruction and service learning. For the past 19 years, she and her staff have provided these students with the opportunity to earn high school diplomas from their resident school districts or GEDs. Presently, the ERESO operates the following schools: Essex Campus Academy in Fairfield; Essex Junior Academy in Cedar Grove and Essex High School in Passaic in addition to Sojourn High School.

Dr. Young has received awards from a variety of organizations and communities for her work with this population of students. She was inducted into the Rutgers African American Alumni Alliance Hall of Fame Award in October 2011 and received the Shirley Chisholm "Catalyst For Change" Award. She is a member of the National Association of School Administrators, New Jersey Association of School Administrators, New Jersey Network of Superintendents, New Jersey Superintendents' Study Council, Essex County Superintendents' Group, Association of Educational Service Agencies, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, International Reading Association and Phi Delta Kappa. In addition, she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Montclair Alumnae Chapter. At this time, she is Co-Chairperson of Delta GEMS which stands for "Growing and Em-

powering Myself Successfully". This program services teenage girls between the ages of 14 and 18 in grades 9–12 addressing the following areas: sisterhood, community service, scholarship, college preparation and career options. Dr. Young's sincere concern for these young people and dedication to helping them has been a source of inspiration throughout her career.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the U.S. House of Representatives agree that Dr. Jacqueline A. Young deserves to be recognized for a job well done and for many years of service to the people of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF WEST
DES MOINES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of West Des Moines, Iowa for its recognition as a 2015 Tree City USA sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program (the Forest Service).

The City of West Des Moines has met the core standards for tree care during the past year. Over 135 million Americans live in Tree City USA communities. In its 40th year of celebration, the Tree City USA program is critical to the U.S. Forest Service. This federal partner delivers technical and financial resources to states, cities and communities across the nation with each community adhering to a State Action Plan, guiding investments in each state while accomplishing local projects and programs.

The U.S. Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation cooperate with communities to establish healthy forests, improve air and water quality and contribute to important national energy conservation goals. These local investments create long term major environmental improvements nationwide.

I commend the City of West Des Moines and urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the community on this award and in wishing the city nothing but continued success.

POPE COUNTY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I wish to acknowledge the residents of Pope County celebrating their Bicentennial Anniversary.

Pope County was established on January 10, 1816, when it received its name from Nathaniel Pope, then Secretary of the Illinois Territory. In 1818 when Illinois entered the Union as a free state, the population of Pope County mostly reflected the emigration of Europeans to America that occurred in the 19th century.

Pope County has since been the home to many notable citizens including: American

Civil War General James L. Alcorn, Military Governor of South Korea (preceding the Korean War) John R. Hodge, and American Civil War General Green B. Raum.

Pope County is also home to the Shawnee National Forest, which covers one third of the county, and provides residents and tourists with lakes, creeks, caves, rock formations, valleys, and wooded hills that are excellent for hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and to just get away.

Pope County hosts many yearly events, including the 9-day Trail Ride, the River-to-River Relay, and the Deer Festival.

The residents of Pope County began celebrating their county's bicentennial on January 10, 2016, and will hold a multitude of festivities throughout the rest of the year.

I congratulate the residents of Pope County on the 200th anniversary of the county's founding, and I extend my best wishes for many more.

RECOGNIZING MS. BETTY REID
SOSKIN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Betty Reid Soskin, a constituent, friend, and influential figure in my congressional district in Contra Costa County, California.

For my colleagues who may not know Betty, she is a fabled Park Ranger with the National Park Service at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park. She also enjoys the unique distinction of our nation's oldest Park Ranger at age 94.

Betty has a tremendous life story. Born in Detroit, Betty and her family lived in New Orleans before relocating to Oakland, California in 1927. She worked as a file clerk for the Boilermakers Union A-36 during World War II, a Jim Crow all-African American union auxiliary. In the 1950s, she moved with her family to Walnut Creek where she fought against discrimination in her new mostly-white neighborhood, became active in her local church, and became a well-known songwriter during the civil rights movement during the 1960s.

In 1995, Betty was named a "Woman of the Year" by the California State Legislature and was named one of the nation's ten outstanding women in 2006 by the National Women's History Project.

As a field representative for members of the California legislature, Betty was active in the development of the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park to acknowledge the role of black neighborhoods surrounding the Richmond, California site, which had been bulldozed after the war. She now serves the park as a Ranger. In 2015, the White House recognized Betty with a Presidential Coin after she introduced President Obama at the National Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at the White House.

Last week, Betty was brutally assaulted and robbed when an unknown assailant broke into her home. True to form, Betty fought off her assailant, but during the encounter the thief managed to steal various personal items—among them, a special commemorative coin

given to her by President Obama when she helped light the national Christmas tree last winter.

Thanks to her strong spirit and perseverance, Betty is recovering quickly. Our office has been in touch with the White House to ensure Betty receives a new commemorative coin from the President to replace the one that was stolen.

We are thankful that Betty was not more seriously injured, and we look forward to welcoming her back to full health. Her spirit and drive are an inspiration to Californians everywhere.

HONORING LAKE FOREST POLICE
CHIEF JAMES HELD

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Lake Forest Police Chief James Held.

Chief Held's career is a testament to his hard work. He rose through the ranks from being a student at the College of Lake County and a security guard in 1984 to being police chief thirty-two years. His creation of the Bike Rodeo and the twenty-year-old Citizen's Police Academy programs helped increase community outreach and education on behalf of local police forces.

Chief Held leaves behind a legacy of outstanding leadership at the Lake Forest Police Department, where he connected with his fellow officers and innovatively engaged with the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to express my gratitude to Police Chief James Held for his thirty-one years of laudable service.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION
OF THE SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE
VISITOR CENTER TO SENATOR
DIXON

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication of the Scott Air Force Base Visitor Control Center, which will be renamed in honor of Senator Alan J. Dixon.

Senator Dixon dedicated his life to public service, fighting for our country in the United States Navy during World War II before representing Illinois in the United States Senate for 12 years, from 1981 to 1993. The Scott Air Force Base will honor Senator Dixon's commitment to our country and his tireless work on behalf of Illinois families—and given his lifetime of service, I cannot think of a more appropriate celebration of Senator Dixon's life. I was able to witness his dedication to Illinois first hand when my father worked for Senator Dixon as his Chief of Staff. As my father would often say, "he was a senator from Illinois, for Illinois."

As chairman of the subcommittee that authorized spending on armed services, Senator Dixon was known for reaching across the

aisle. His support for Illinois ensured that the Scott Air Force Base became one of the largest employers in the state, which now employs approximately 13,000 people and its airfield serves both military and civilian planes.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend the Scott Air Force Base for honoring Senator Dixon for his lifetime of service to our country and the State of Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE VOINOVICH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a fellow public servant from Ohio, George Voinovich, who passed away Sunday, June 12th.

George was a pillar of the Republican Party, though he occasionally opposed the establishment in the name of good governance. His intellect was unsurpassed, helping him to become a two-term Governor of Ohio, and later to win a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Among his numerous achievements, George was proudest of passing the global anti-Semitism bill, efforts to expand NATO, and a bill to protect intellectual property. These accomplishments are a testament to his character, one which helped restore the city of Cleveland in the late 1970s.

In addition to political accomplishments, George prided himself on his frugality, in both his public life and private life. Throughout his governorship, his mantra was "working harder and smarter, doing more with less." Occasionally this mantra put George in juxtaposition with his party, such as when he pushed a tax increase that would help stabilize the state's finances.

Born in Cleveland on July 15, 1936, George Victor Voinovich was the son of Eastern European immigrants. His culture would strongly shape the man he became, endearing him to the ethnic communities that thrived in the Cleveland area.

Sadly, tragedy would also shape his life in later years, after the death of his youngest daughter, Molly, when she was 9 years old. George readily acknowledged this incident as one that elicited a greater depth of feeling and understanding, all of which he reflected back on his work in public service.

George passed away suddenly on Sunday, in the company of his wife, Janet. He had just made a public appearance the Friday before at the 25th Slovenian Independence Day event at Cleveland City Hall, and was a delegate to the upcoming Republican National Convention.

George is survived by his loving wife and three children. We offer them our prayers and hope that they find comfort in the wonderful memories of our dear friend and colleague, George, who will be remembered with affection and gratitude for his probing intellect, kind heart, and utter dedication to our wonderful state of Ohio.